

# DAILY BULLETIN

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**Please Note:** The Daily Bulletin will be closed during the month of August and will return on September 5th.

## BUSH WELCOMES PROGRESS ACHIEVED AT ROME CONFERENCE ON LEBANON

Conference opened “diplomatic way forward,” president tells reporters

By David Shelby  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – President Bush expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the July 26 Rome conference of the Lebanon Core Group, saying it laid the groundwork for further diplomatic action.

“Yesterday’s meetings were successful in this way: It showed a diplomatic way forward,” Bush told reporters at a July 27 press availability in Washington.

Foreign ministers from 15 nations and representatives of three international organizations met in Rome to discuss a solution to the two-week-old conflict between Israel and Hizballah militants.

Recapping the conference with reporters en route to Malaysia July 26, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice outlined the United States’ basic objectives going into the meeting.

She said she hoped to achieve agreement that the solution to the crisis lies in the extension of Lebanese government sovereignty over its entire territory, the disbanding of all militias and the introduction of a U.N.-mandated international stabilization force. She also sought an international commitment to provide humanitarian aid and reconstruction assistance to Lebanon.

"I was very heartened by the consensus around the table ... about what the elements [of the solution] are. And I will now work with the parties to see if we can get this resolved," she said.

The secretary said an immediate cease-fire is not a solution to the problem.

"[T]he fields of the Middle East are littered with broken cease-fires. And every time there's a broken cease-fire, people die, there's destruction, and there's misery," she said. "We need to try, this time, to put together an international effort that sustains an end to the violence."

President Bush expressed complete agreement with Rice's statement, saying the United States does not want "a fake peace" that allows the problem to arise again.

"[N]ow is the time to address the root cause of the problem. And the root cause of the problem is terrorist groups trying to stop the advance of democracies," he said.

"I view this as a clash of forms of government. I see people who can't stand the thought of democracy taking hold ... in the Middle East. And as democracy begins to advance, they use terrorist tactics to stop it," he said.

Speaking to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington July 27, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton said Hizballah simply would take advantage of a temporary cease-fire.

"History shows us that it would only allow them time to regroup and plan their next wave of kidnappings and attacks against Israel," he said.

Rice said she expects the United Nations will hold a meeting in the coming week to discuss the composition of an international stabilization force. She said the United States likely would not contribute combat forces.

In his Senate testimony, Bolton outlined a number of issues that must be taken into consideration as the United Nations creates the new multinational force.

"Would the new force be empowered to deal with the real problem, namely Hizballah? How would such a force deal with Hizballah armed components, and would it be empowered to deal with arms shipments from countries like Syria and Iran that support Hizballah? How would the new force relate to the existing U.N. Interim

Force in Lebanon, or UNIFIL, which already has been there for 28 years? Finally, would such a force contribute to the institutional strength to the Lebanese Armed Forces [LAF] to help fully implement Resolution 1559?" he said.

U.S. officials have stated repeatedly that Syria and Iran bear a large responsibility for the current crisis because of their financial and strategic support for Hizballah, but Rice dismissed the idea that either country should be involved in the resolution of the conflict.

"It needs to be between Lebanon and Israel with international support," she said. She said Syria's obligations with regard to Lebanon are clearly outlined in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559 and that Iran should understand that any effort on its part to undermine a peaceful resolution of the conflict will deepen its international isolation.

Rice said that the recent spread of democratic movements in the Middle East means that circumstances there have changed since the last crisis of this nature. She said the international community must take this into account in crafting a response.

"[T]he Middle East is different now and we do not want to undermine ... the different Middle East by the way that we resolve this situation. This needs to strengthen the elected Lebanese government and everybody needs to keep that in mind," she said.

Rice said the ultimate goal of the process must be "a Lebanon that can control its own territory, a Lebanon [where] ... the government has a monopoly on arms, so you don't have armed militias crossing the blue line and provoking attack, and a Lebanon that is then sustained through economic assistance and reconstruction. That's the path."

## U.S. ASSISTANCE REACHES SOUTH LEBANON

U.S. military shifts to humanitarian mission as  
USAID coordinates relief

By Jacquelyn S. Porth  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Marine Corps Brigadier General Carl Jensen says the U.S. military in the Middle East is ready to deliver humanitarian assistance to Lebanon.

Speaking from Cyprus on July 26 by videoconference to reporters at the Pentagon, Jensen said the first basic medical supplies, in the form of health kits, were provided to Lebanon July 25.

The U.S. military is on the leading edge of the delivery operation, but the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is running the overall mission, he said.

In Washington, USAID Assistant Administrator for Asia and the Near East James Kunder said humanitarian aid now is reaching displaced people in Lebanon. "Initial American medical supplies have been sent to the south and are being distributed there," he told journalists at a July 27 briefing.

With Cyprus as a regional staging ground, Kunder said, the ships, planes and helicopters used to evacuate American citizens in the past week were loaded with relief supplies for return trips to Lebanon. The shipments then were placed in the hands of relief organizations for delivery to people in need.

A USAID disaster assistance response team currently is analyzing the scope of the humanitarian emergency to determine what is needed to alleviate suffering in Lebanon.

Currently, Kunder said, the greatest need is for health and shelter supplies. Blankets and plastic sheeting has been sent. "Fuel is critical," he said, and is being sent to keep generators going and provide a means to purify drinking water.

"After the humanitarian phase of the operation, there will be a large reconstruction effort in Lebanon," he said. "The U.S. government will be looking at reconstruction needs in Lebanon as well as humanitarian needs."

This follows a series of meetings Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice held in Lebanon and Israel July 24 and

July 25, in which she sought to establish access corridors "to get humanitarian assistance to the Lebanese people."

The United States already has pledged \$30 million in immediate humanitarian assistance for Lebanon. The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration also is giving \$3.4 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross in response to its emergency appeal for Lebanon and another \$1 million to the International Organization for Migration.

Of the funds pledged, \$11 million already has been sent, Kunder said. To meet the most urgent needs in Lebanon quickly, the United States has shipped supplies directly from U.S. government stockpiles close to the region. Aid also is being funneled through U.N. agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, and other organizations working with local organizations to distribute supplies wherever they are needed.

Jensen, who commands the U.S. military's Task Force 59, had been coordinating the efforts of 5,000 U.S. military personnel to facilitate the departure of approximately 14,000 American citizens from Lebanon after fighting broke out between Hizballah and Israel July 12. He said most of the Americans wishing to leave have done so and the number now arriving at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, has diminished from thousands daily to hundreds.

## CYPRUS, TURKISH GOVERNMENTS AIDED DEPARTURE EFFORT

Jensen said the governments of Cyprus and Turkey also helped Americans depart Lebanon, a mission that involved the U.S. European, Central, Pacific, Atlantic and Transportation Commands. Both governments "really helped out when we needed them to," he said.

Although that aspect of the military operation has wound down, Jensen said, the number of U.S. Navy ships in the vicinity remains the same. This includes the amphibious transport, USS Nashville, the guided missile destroyers USS Gonzalez and USS Barry, and four other naval vessels.

"We will be here as long as the ambassador [Jeffrey Feltman] needs us to do the job that we've been assigned," he said. Feltman declared a humanitarian emergency in Lebanon on July 25, clearing the way for the delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance.

## U.S. WILL NOT ABANDON WTO TALKS DESPITE FAILURE IN GENEVA

USTR Schwab plans to explore options to revive trade liberalization effort

By Andrzej Zwanecki  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States has no intention of giving up on World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations despite their indefinite suspension announced July 24, U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab says.

The talks, launched in Qatar's capital in 2001, are formally called the Doha Development Agenda. In Geneva July 24, WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy announced indefinite suspension of the negotiations, following a failed meeting among six major participants.

"The Doha round obviously is in serious trouble, but it isn't dead yet," said Schwab, who just returned from a meeting in Geneva. At that meeting the United States, Australia, Brazil, India, Japan and the European Union (EU) failed to agree on how to proceed with the talks.

Schwab told reporters in Washington July 26 the Bush administration intends to do everything possible to reach a successful conclusion of the Doha round.

But she acknowledged that an agreement on more liberal trade rules among the WTO's 149 members, if it happens at all, is very unlikely to be completed in time for the U.S. Congress to consider it under existing trade negotiating authority, which expires in July 2007.

"We don't know whether we're even going to be able to ... get to 'yes' on Doha or will we get to 'yes' on Doha in three months, in six months or three years," Schwab said.

She said she has either already talked or is planning to talk to trade ministers from several countries in coming months to explore possible ways of reviving the negotiations. She said she would do this rather than blame others for the negotiations reaching a dead-end.

The EU and India have blamed the United States for the failure of the Doha round, criticism Schwab decisively rejected.

She said the EU and some other countries wanted a more limited agreement that would retain numerous exclusions

of sensitive and special agricultural products as well as a special safeguard mechanism for temporarily blocking agricultural imports. She said that any agreement leaving in place the very highest peak tariffs would have institutionalized them, thus making it difficult to get rid of them in the future.

The U.S. Congress would have been unlikely to approve an agreement that had not lowered tariffs enough to create new trade flows, she said.

Schwab said it is too early to decide whether to complete work on Doha issues on which countries have made significant progress -- such as trade facilitation, trade-capacity building and export subsidies -- separate from the tougher issues.

"I think we need to let the dust settle a little bit," she said. "We need to think about what all the options are in terms of getting a Doha round accomplished."

A proposal to continue WTO negotiations on trade facilitation suggested by EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson was rejected by an EU committee and was met with skepticism by WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy, according to news reports.

Schwab said the United States intends to pursue "more actively" bilateral and regional free trade agreements.

She said countries with which the United States already has free trade agreements, such as Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia and Mexico, are the most vocal supporters of an ambitious WTO deal.

## UNITED STATES STILL PURSUING PEACE IN DARFUR, STATE'S BOLTON SAYS

U.N. ambassador says work continues on mandate for peacekeepers

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States continues to "push hard" to bring relief to the people in the Darfur region of western Sudan, where at least 200,000 people have died and more than 2 million have been displaced since 2003, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton said July 27.

In testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Bolton cautioned that even though the United States does "see a way forward, in regard to Darfur, significant challenges remain."

Bolton was on Capitol Hill in regard to his "recess" appointment as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, which expires in January 2007 if the Senate does not confirm him before then. President Bush installed Bolton at the United Nations in August 2005, during a congressional recess.

The United States is working within the U.N. Security Council, Bolton told the lawmakers, to craft a robust resolution under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter that will afford any U.N. force the capability and the mandate to defend itself and civilians in Darfur.

Russia and China continue to voice opposition to a Chapter VII mandate, he said, but he added that in May the Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1679, designed to facilitate planning for the future deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping operation in the Darfur region.

"We believe this to be a viable precedent for upcoming Darfur resolutions," he told the lawmakers. Additionally, he said, "There is also the issue of the government of Sudan agreeing to a U.N. force in Darfur," adding "significant efforts are ongoing bilaterally and multilaterally to achieve this.

"While this plays out, we continue to do our part toward adopting a resolution, determining force requirements and identifying troop-contributing countries so that we are fully prepared to go in and complete the mission," he said.

Bolton said the U.N. Technical Assessment Mission has returned from Sudan and is finalizing its report to the Security Council.

Preliminary indications, Bolton said, show that the U.N. Department of Peacekeeping Operations will recommend a U.N. force package in Darfur of approximately 15,000 to 17,000 troops, to be operational on or about January 1, 2007.

"We prefer to have a credible force there sooner than that," he said, and he expressed concern about the interim period.

"Therefore, while we continue to do all we can to hasten the deployment of a new force, we are also working with our allies and the U.N. to provide support to the existing African Union force presently on the ground in Darfur, known as the African Union Mission in Sudan [AMIS].

"AMIS," he said, "has done all it can to keep order by patrolling an area nearly the size of Texas with about 7,000 troops, but they have reached the limits of their capabilities. So until we have a U.N. force on the ground, we are working with our NATO allies to support AMIS with immediate assistance in the form of planning, logistics, intelligence support and other help."

Bolton then quoted President Bush: "America will not turn away from this tragedy. We will call genocide by its rightful name, and we will stand up for the innocent until the peace of Darfur is secured."

"We are working tirelessly in New York to bring this to fruition," Bolton told U.S. lawmakers.

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**Pleases Note:** Most texts and transcript mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage: <http://geneva.usmission.gov/>

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